

# Village of Waynesville Council Meeting Minutes May 5, 2025 at 7:00 pm

Present: Mr. Lyle Anthony  
Mr. Chris Colvin  
Mayor Earl Isaacs  
Mr. Troy Lauffer  
Mrs. Connie Miller

Absent: Mr. Zack Gallagher  
Mr. Brian Blankenship

Village Staff Present: Jeffery Forbes, Law Director; Gary Copeland, Village Manager and Director of Public Safety; Jamie Morley, Finance Director and Clerk of Council

***CLERK'S NOTE-*** This is a summary of the Village Council Meeting held on Monday, May 5, 2025.

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Mayor Isaacs called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call – 5 present

Mayor Isaacs motioned to excuse Mr. Blankenship and Mr. Gallagher from tonight's meeting, and Mr. Anthony seconded the motion.

Motion - Isaacs  
Second - Anthony

Roll Call - 5 yeas

## **Mayor Acknowledgements**

Mayor Isaacs announced that the Village has a new movie star. Chief Copeland will be featured in the movie Smashing Machine, which is set to release on October 3.

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## **Disposition of Previous Minutes**

Mrs. Miller motioned to approve the April 21, 2025 meeting minutes as corrected, and Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller  
Second – Colvin

Roll Call – 5 yeas

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### **Public Recognition/Visitor's Comments**

Ohio Representative Adams Mathews addressed Council, stating he was in attendance tonight at their invitation to discuss HB 28. He noted the purpose of the bill is part of the plan to help simplify Ohio's tax code by being more transparent to the voters by eliminating replacement property tax levies. Rep. Mathews stated that many municipalities do not realize that with a replacement levy, municipalities will lose the 10% state rollback. He also stated that many times, voters do not realize that by voting for a replacement levy, property taxes will increase. He elaborated that many times replacement levies are campaigned that they will not increase the tax rate, which is true, but replacements do increase property taxes by using the most current property values. He said that his office did research and found that municipalities that ran a renewal with an increase levy passed 86% of the time. Whereas, a replacement levy passed 89% of the time. Rep. Mathews stated he believes this bill will help simplify the property tax code and help gain the trust of the people.

Mr. Colvin asked where this bill stands. Rep. Mathews responded that the bill has passed through the House and has had its first hearing in the Senate. Currently, there is a pause while the budget is being worked on. Mr. Colvin asked what else is being proposed as part of the tax code simplification. Rep. Mathews stated that 25 to 30 bills are being proposed that include clawbacks for schools, consideration of millage, and not allowing omnibus bills. Mr. Colvin asked why Rep. Mathews believes that the Ohio Municipal League is so concerned about HB 28. Rep. Mathews stated he does not think they should be. He believes that it is a matter of process, and they do not want the legislature to take away a tool from municipalities. Mr. Colvin asked what was done at a local level to discuss the impacts this bill would have. Rep. Mathews said he and his staff spoke with several organizations and explained that this was a trade with the community to get long-term trust.

Mrs. Miller inquired about the Ohio Legislature's efforts to address the police problem. Rep. Mathews responded that they are increasing funding and training. They are also supporting body cameras, as this is a great way to protect officers. They are also considering increasing pensions, benefits, and recruiting. Mrs. Miller pointed out that some of these fall back onto the municipality to fund.

Mr. Colvin asked Rep. Mathews for his opinion on House Joint Resolution 2 – Convention of States. Rep. Mathews stated that he has some concerns about the continuing definition of term limits, citing instances where term limits have empowered bureaucrats. He also expressed appreciation for the idea of a balanced budget and bringing the states to the table.

Chief Copeland suggested that Rep. Mathews consider addressing the issues of OPATA. He stated that it is taking the organization months to approve lateral moves of officers to other organizations. It is causing problems getting these officers on the road. Rep. Mathews concurred that he does not want licensing to get in the way, but it is also necessary to ensure there are no former disciplinary issues.

Council thanked Rep. Mathews for attending the meeting this evening and appreciated his time.

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## **Old Business**

None

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## **Reports**

### **Finance**

The next Finance Committee meeting will be May 19th at 6:00 p.m.

### **Public Works Report**

The Public Works meeting was canceled this evening due to a lack of quorum. The next meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2025, at 6 p.m.

### **Special Committee Report**

The MOMS Committee met this evening and identified the trees to be planted on Main Street. Chief Copeland will meet with staff from the City of Franklin to explore possible grants for downtown.

### **Village Manager Report**

- Chief Copeland provided information on Issue #2, the renewal of the OPWC. The Village has received several grants from this program and has benefited tremendously from them.
- There is an ordinance on tonight's agenda regarding ODOT's installation of turn lanes at the intersection of Old Route 73 and Route 73.
- A Zoom meeting has been scheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup> with a developer to discuss a possible development on the old Michner property. Chief Copeland will provide updates from this meeting.
- The MOMS Committee met this evening. Chief Copeland has a meeting with the City of Franklin to get information on possible grants for Main Street. He plans to push the safety aspects to help get the poles to block off the streets for events.
- Staff performed an in-house repair on a collapsing catch basin.
- The easement for Well 10 with Harvest Baptist Church has been recorded. Chief Copeland reached out to Moody's to start the line.
- Photographs have been provided of the fence at the wellfield. During the flood, all the grass and debris were pushed up against the fence.

Chief Copeland is going to see if there is a farmer who would like to harvest the grass for feed.

- On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, a water main break occurred on Ferry Road. The issue was repaired promptly.
- SmithCorp has completed the storm lines on Franklin and is now working on replacing the laterals. Paving has been scheduled for the end of May.
- The Recycle Rally was a success. The Village donated two workers to support the event.
- Updates for the aggregate have been provided for review.

## **Police Report**

- Devastating news of the Hamilton Officer who was killed.
- Mayor's Court month-end, calls for service, and code enforcement reports have been provided for review.
- Chief Copeland provided a letter from Chief Beckett regarding the Hammel House. They are collaborating to bring this building up to code.
- Chief Copeland attended the Ohio Chiefs' Conference this weekend. All the classes count towards CPT hours.
- The Police Department participated in the National Drug Take Back Day and turned 35 lbs. of prescription drugs over to the DEA.
- The annual Police Memorial Day is on May 15.

Mrs. Miller inquired about the code enforcement status of 120 N. Main Street. Chief Copeland stated that the owner has pending court cases for code violations. He has shown some progress, but another citation can be issued if there is no further progress.

Mr. Colvin asked if Chief Copeland has noticed any changes in drug and trafficking since there have been changes at the border. He responded that he has not and added that it is getting even harder with the legalization of marijuana.

## **Financial Director Report**

- The yearly report for American Rescue Funds has been filed. A breakdown of how the Village has spent the funds has been provided.
- Several ordinances are on the agenda that were discussed at the last Finance Committee meeting.
- Ms. Morley informed Council that they will be getting an email from Sarah Clay from the Ohio State Auditor's office concerning the upcoming audit of years 2023 and 2024. She stated that Council has two options to begin the audit. They can choose a formal audit conference, where representatives will sit down with all of Council and explain the audit process and expectations, or they can choose an

informal conference, where the Finance Director will sign a paper starting the audit.

The consensus of Council was to have an informal conference to commence the audit.

### **Law Report**

None

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### **New Business**

None

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### **Legislation**

#### **First Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions**

##### **Ordinance No 2025-012**

Preliminary Legislation (LPA-ODOT-Let Project Agreement) (Consent) and Declaring an Emergency

Mr. Lauffer moved to waive the two-reading rule for Ordinance No. 2025-012, and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Lauffer  
Second – Miller

##### **Roll Call – 5 yeas**

Mr. Colvin moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-012 as an emergency, and Mr. Anthony seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin  
Second – Anthony

##### **Roll Call – 5 yeas**

##### **Resolution No. 2025- 013**

A Resolution Amending the Appropriations for the Village of Waynesville for Calendar Year 2025 and Declaring an Emergency

Mr. Colvin moved to waive the two-reading rule for Resolution No. 2025-013, and Mr. Lauffer seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin  
Second – Lauffer

##### **Roll Call – 5 yeas**

Mr. Colvin stated that this was discussed at the Finance Committee meeting, and it was decided it was prudent to delay the transfer of funds to avoid a compliance violation and complete the transfer at the year-end.

Mrs. Miller moved to adopt Resolution No. 2025-013 as an emergency, and Mr. Anthony seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller  
Second – Anthony

**Roll Call – 5 yeas**

**Ordinance No. 2025-014**

An Ordinance Authorizing the Transfer of Money from the General Fund (1000) to the Admin HRA Fund (6901) and Declaring an Emergency

Mrs. Miller moved to waive the two-reading rule for Ordinance No. 2025-014, and Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller  
Second – Colvin

**Roll Call – 5 yeas**

Ms. Morley stated this is to fund the HRA fund because the budgeted appropriations have been exhausted.

Mr. Colvin moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-014 as an emergency, and Mr. Anthony seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin  
Second – Anthony

**Roll Call – 5 yeas**

**Ordinance No. 2025-015**

Establishing the Main Street Capital Projects Fund (Fund 4901)

Mr. Anthony moved to have the first-reading for Ordinance No. 2025-015, and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Anthony  
Second – Miller

**Roll Call – 5 yeas**

Ms. Morley stated that this will create a fund that will make it easier to track the amount saved for the Main Street project, as this project keeps growing. It will also make it more transparent.

**Ordinance No. 2025-016**

Authorizing a Health Insurance Plan for Village Employees, Establishing Employee Contribution, and Declaring an Emergency

Mr. Colvin moved to waive the two-reading rule for Ordinance No. 2025-016, and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin

Second – Miller

**Roll Call – 5 yeas**

Mr. Colvin stated that this topic was discussed at the last Finance Committee meeting, and it was decided that it would be beneficial for employee retention.

Mr. Colvin moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-016 as an emergency, and Mr. Anthony seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin

Second – Anthony

**Roll Call – 5 yeas**

**Ordinance 2025-017**

An Ordinance Amending the Village of Waynesville Personnel Policy Manual Regarding Insurance Benefits

Mrs. Miller moved to have the first-reading for Ordinance No. 2025-017, and Mr. Anthony seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller

Second – Anthony

**Roll Call – 5 yeas**

Ms. Morley explained that this was basic housekeeping to ensure the personnel policy was consistent with the Village's insurance plan.

**Ordinance 2025-018**

Amending the Schedule of Fees and Charges for the Village of Waynesville Regarding Trash and Yard Waste Disposal Service Fees

Mr. Colvin moved to have the first-reading for Ordinance No. 2025-018, and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin

Second – Miller

**Roll Call – 5 yeas**

**Resolution No. 2025-019**

A Resolution Amending the Appropriations for the Village of Waynesville for Calendar Year 2025 (Amendment No. 2) and Declaring an Emergency

Motion – Colvin  
Second – Anthony

## Roll Call – 5 yeas

Motion – Colvin  
Second – Lauffer

## Roll Call – 5 yeas

## **Second Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions**

None

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## Executive Session

None

All were in favor of adjourning at 8:00 p.m.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council